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The bureaucrats funding the EPA's project concern me. The public is concerned about the Willamette River, and I feel that this plan was only created and funded to make people happy. Historically, the government only funds these types of projects to look like they're doing something, but they have no intention to follow through with it. It becomes an expensive project until it just sort of passes. I'm not ready for the EPA to come in and just start taxing my utilities because it will be a quick money grab until the project simply ceases. The budget the EPA is proposing is astronomical; you can throw as much money as you want, but it won't solve the problem.

The local economy would also be hurt because there are too many businesses that rely on the river. I don't believe the EPA could successfully shut down part of the waterfront for construction because there are tax dollars coming in from businesses and recreation in that area. The amount of pressure the agency would get could prevent them from actually doing anything. Both sides would spend thousands and thousands of dollars fighting over what to do at the river site, but at the end, no work would actually get done.

There are many people in Portland who are struggling to make rent, and they certainly couldn't afford higher taxes to pay for the project. The jobs being added to our community are so low-income, that people can't even make ends meet. Tacking on this extra tax will significantly hurt them, do nothing positive for other Portland residents, and only benefit federal bureaucracies who create their own projects or departments. They do not have our best interests in mind at all. They do not follow through on the projects they put forth, and instead just try to check off all the items on the agenda. I'm cynical because it's a do-nothing situation.

This project is too large for anybody to take on; cleaning the river is just a time game. The EPA has done a few quick studies to prove that their project is operable, but they have since left the studies alone for over ten years. Instead, they should continue to test the water over the next few years in order to see if there are risks. The only fix that can possibly work is to let the river continue to heal itself because nobody is going to put that much money toward the EPA's proposal.

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